

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (currently amended): A lithium ion secondary battery comprising:
a negative electrode material consisting essentially of a graphite powder formed by graphitization at a temperature ranging from about 1500°C to less than 2200°C, the graphite powder comprising a carbon material containing about 0.01 to less than 1.0 wt% of boron and having a looped closure structure at an end of a graphite c-planar layer on at least a surface of cleavage formed by shearing, wherein the density of the interstitial planar sections between neighboring closure structures is not less than 100/ μm and not more than 1500/ μm ;

a positive electrode material comprising $\text{LiM}^1_{1-x}\text{M}^2_x\text{O}_2$ or $\text{LiM}^1_{2-y}\text{M}^2_y\text{O}_4$, where x and y are numerical figures such that $0 < x < 4$ and $0 < y < 1$, M^1 and M^2 denote at least one of transition metal of Co, Ni, Mn, Cr, Ti, V, Fe, Zn, Al, In and Sn and,

a nonaqueous electrolyte,

wherein said negative electrode material and positive electrode material are coated on both sides of a current collector.

Claim 13 (previously presented): A method for producing a graphite powder that includes about 0.01 to less than 1.0 wt% of boron, the method comprising the steps of:

pulverizing a carbon material at least one of prior to carbonization and after carbonization;

heating the carbon material at a temperature ranging from about 1500°C to less than 2200°C thereby causing graphitization of the carbon material to occur, wherein boron is added to the carbon material prior to graphitization; and

forming a looped closure structure at an end of a graphite c-planar layer on at least a surface of cleavage formed by shearing, wherein a density of interstitial planar sections between neighboring closure structures is not less than 100/ μm .

Claim 14 (previously presented): The method of claim 13 wherein the carbon material is obtained by at least one of a carbonization of mesophase globules and bulk mesophase.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method of claim 13 wherein the carbon material is pulverized at a speed of not less than 5000 rpm.

Claim 16 (previously presented): A method for producing a graphite powder that includes about 0.01 to less than 1.0 wt% of boron, the method comprising the steps of:

pulverizing a carbon material at least one of prior to carbonization and after carbonization;

heating the carbon material at a temperature ranging from about 1500°C to less than 2200°C thereby causing graphitization of the carbon material to occur, wherein boron is added to the carbon material prior to graphitization;

heating the carbon material thereby causing scraping of a surface of the graphite powder;

heating the carbon material in an inert gas at a temperature not less than 800°C; and

forming a looped closure structure at an end of a graphite c-planar layer on at least a surface of cleavage formed by shearing, wherein a density of interstitial planar sections between neighboring closure structures is not less than 100/ μm .

Claim 17 (previously presented): The method of claim 16 wherein the step of heating the carbon material to cause scraping of the surface of the graphite powder includes oxidizing heat treatment.